



## DMR Pollutant Loading Tool Version 1.0

### OVERVIEW OF EPA'S WATERSHED LOOK-UP

The EPA Look-Up Tables Search feature includes a Watershed Look-Up, shown in Figure 1. The Search prompts the user to enter a zip code and returns the following information:

- **12-Digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-12):** Code assigned by the US Geological Survey used to classify watersheds in the United States and the Caribbean. The code consists of twelve digits which correspond to six levels of classification: Region (first-level, 2-digit HUC), Subregion (second-level, 4-digit HUC), Accounting unit (third-level, 6-digit HUC), Cataloguing unit (fourth-level, 8-digit HUC), Watershed (fifth-level, 10-digit HUC), and Subwatershed (sixth-level, 12-digit HUC).
- **HUC Name:** The name that corresponds to the HUC-12 Code. It is usually the name for the most significant body of water in the subwatershed.

Watershed Lookup	
Enter a 5-digit ZIP code to see the corresponding HUC-12 codes and names for watersheds that exist within the geographic boundaries of the ZIP code.	
ZIP Code	20004
HUC-12 Code(s):	
HUC-12 Name(s):	
<input type="button" value="Search"/>	

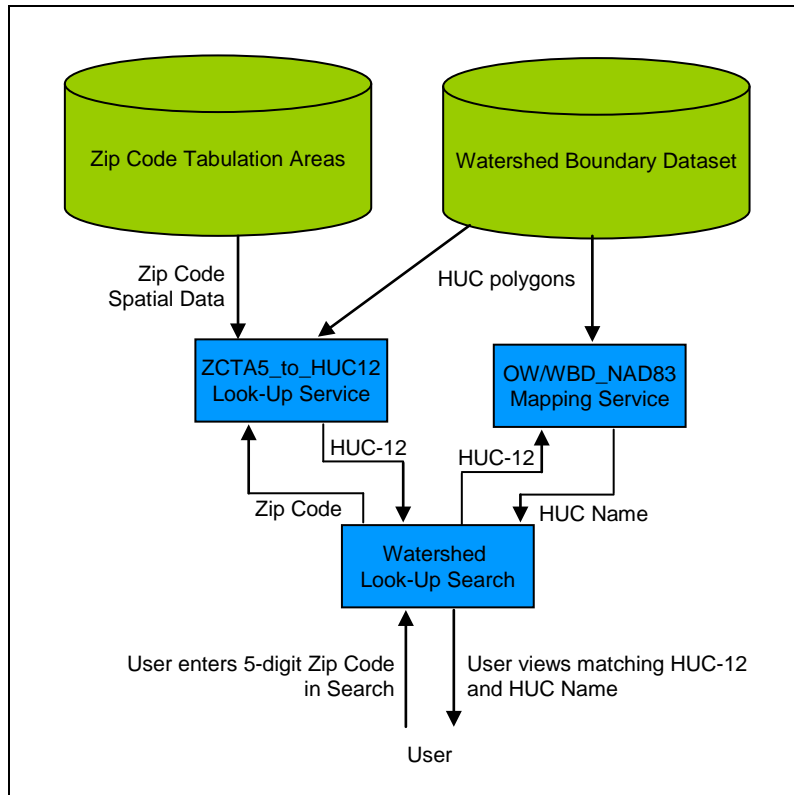
Watershed Lookup	
Enter a 5-digit ZIP code to see the corresponding HUC-12 codes and names for watersheds that exist within the geographic boundaries of the ZIP code.	
ZIP Code	20004
HUC-12 Code(s):	020700100103
HUC-12 Name(s):	Pimmit Run-Potomac River
<input type="button" value="Search"/>	

**Figure 1. Watershed Look-Up Search**

The Loading Tool uses the following web services, developed by EPA's Office of Water, to link zip codes to HUC-12s and HUC-12 names:

- **ZCTA5\_to\_HUC12:** This service returns a HUC-12 for a specified zip code. The service determines a match between HUC-12 and zip code by overlaying spatial data for HUC-12s from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Watershed Boundary Dataset with spatial data for zip codes from the U.S. Census Bureau's Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA). If there is any overlap between the HUC-12 and zip code, then the service matches the zip code and HUC-12.
- **OW/WBD\_NAD83:** The Loading Tool uses this service to pull the HUC-12 name from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Watershed Boundary Dataset.

Figure 2 shows the data flow for the Watershed Look-up.



**Figure 2. Watershed Look-Up Data Flow**